



**File Code:** 2210  
**Date:** April 22, 2016

Jeff Hunewill  
195 Hunewill Lane  
Wellington, NV  
89444

Dear Jeff Hunewill

The following letter will document your meeting with Aaron Coogan on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 grazing season.

**PERMITTED USE**

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2024:

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING ALLOTMENT
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
108	Cattle	Cow/calf	May 25	June 23	Hunewill Hills C&H*
150	Cattle	Cow/calf	June 22	Sept 11	Buckeye C&H**
45	Cattle	Cow/calf	July 3	Sept 11	Buckeye C&H**
150	Cattle	Cow/calf	July 16	Sept 15	Eagle Creek C&H
203	Cattle	Cow/calf	Nov 1	April 15	Whiskey Flat C&H

\* Hunewill Hills is operated under a 4yr rest-rotation with on/off provision for 108 "on" and 12 "off" total 120 head.

\*\* Buckeye C&H is permitted under an on/off provision for 195 head "on" and 80 "off".

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to theses instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Range and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from theses instructions.

**AUTHORIZED USE**

**Hunewill Hills C&H:** A total of 120 cow/calf pairs are authorized this year from June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>. This is year 2 of the rest-rotation grazing system. Rotation will be as follows for this year: 1<sup>st</sup> Center Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hogan Unit, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cove Unit, the Point Unit will be rested.

**Buckeye C&H:** You are authorized to run full numbers for the 2016 grazing season. A total of 275 cow/calf pairs are authorized with 206 pairs entering on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 69 pairs entering on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pattern of use on the Buckeye C&H Allotment starts in unit two working up to unit four and finally unit one on your way out of the allotment. It will be important to manage cattle distribution to avoid overuse of riparian sites late in the season. Cattle entering the Buckeye



C&H Allotment will use the trail on the north side of Buckeye Creek. Using this area will reduce risks to the public who use the Buckeye Campground.

**Eagle Creek C&H:** A total of 135 cow/calf pairs are authorized this year from July 16<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. This is year three of the grazing rotation schedule. The Eagle Creek Allotment is rested one year in every four. Next year, 2017, will be a rest year for the allotment.

**Whiskey Flat C&H:** Winter use on the Whiskey Flat C&H allotment will be addressed with a separate AOI.

## ALLOWABLE USE

The allowable use standards for the Buckeye C&H, Eagle Creek C&H and Hunewill Hills C&H Allotments are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned for use or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Aaron and he will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after proper use has been reached are not to be allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

### Riparian Sites:

Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.

In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent (or minimum six-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are degraded (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in bare soil and active erosion) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.

In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Eagle Creek C&H, where meadows are receiving a

period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels specified above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at **55 percent** use of key herbaceous species and **25 percent** use of key shrub species.

Upland sites on Buckeye C&H and Hunewill Hills C&H:

55% use of the current year's growth of herbaceous species

50% use of the current year's growth of shrub species such as bitterbrush

Upland and Aspen sites on Eagle Creek C&H:

45% use of the current year's growth of grass or forb species

40% use of the current year's growth of shrub species.

Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotments, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian areas.

## **MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Allotment maps and management requirements for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you.

The Circle-H is the only brand that is authorized under your Term Grazing Permit.

Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotments. The maintenance standards, also listed in part three of your permit, must be followed when maintaining improvements. Range improvements must be maintained even when there is non-use on an allotment; for whatever reason.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

If you or your employees spot a wildfire on any of your allotments, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2016, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is brought onto the National Forest must be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

## REPORTING

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Reporting requirements are part of the terms and conditions listed in your permit. Failure to report actual use dates and numbers may result in **NON-COMPLIANCE**. Please return the completed forms by **November 30, 2016**.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting **a minimum of 35 days prior** to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

Approval of request for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse are not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for nonuse must be done in writing and the approval of a request must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or parital permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision designates all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 262.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal Law or Regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2016 grazing season, you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within permitted allotments to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal). Please keep a copy of this document to provide to Forest Officers when traveling off MVUM routes within your allotments.

If you have any questions or comments regarding management of these allotments, please call Aaron Coogan at (760) 932-5850.

Sincerely,



ERIC DILLINGHAM  
Acting District Ranger